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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 30 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 23 January 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Nicaragua.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 40 of the agenda of the fifty-first session.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 23 January 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Nicaragua

The European Union welcomes the conduct of the elections in Nicaragua resulting in the formation of the new Government, headed by Mr. Arnaldo Aleman, which took office on 10 January.

In these circumstances, the outcome of the elections must be respected by all of Nicaragua's political forces.

The European Union is aware of the challenge ahead for Nicaragua's new administration, which faces an extensive programme of social and economic reforms, already embarked on by the Government of Mrs. Chamorro, that is only achievable with the consensus of the political groups and with parliamentary agreement between the party in Government and the opposition.

In this connection, the European Union welcomes the recent meeting between the President and the opposition leader, Mr. Ortega, and hopes that this will be the first step in establishing constructive cooperation towards the consolidation of democracy, economic reform and social development in Nicaragua.

The countries members of the European Free Trade Association within the European Economic Area, the Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union and the associated country, Cyprus, align themselves with this declaration.